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Spring 2012

### Eagle Executive

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# Eagle Executive

GEORGIA SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY  
**NEWS**  
from the College of  
Business Administration  
STATESBORO, GA 30460

Volume 25, Number 2 Spring 2012

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## Thank You, Dean Shiffler

In late March, Dean **Ronald E. Shiffler** announced he would assume the deanship of McColl School of Business, Queens University of Charlotte, NC, effective July 31, 2012.

Dean Shiffler's leadership in the College of Business for ten years, and as interim dean of Information Technology for four years, is significantly reflected in the national recognition Georgia Southern has enjoyed in record enrollment, new programs, broadened visibility, and Carnegie Doctoral Research University status.

When he arrived in 2002, Shiffler led the college in defining COBA's vision of becoming a premier business school for prospective students, the regional community, and employers. The action plan included distinctive niche programming, engaging the business community, and branding COBA and its disciplines for increased recognition.

During his tenure, the college has grown substantially. COBA's upper division undergraduate enrollment has increased 31.7 percent and undergraduate program offerings have expanded, including the School of Economic Development, a regional economic development major, the forensic accounting programs, information systems, hospitality management, and construction management programs, together with an enterprise resource

planning certification program. In COBA graduate studies, enrollment has grown a dramatic 76.5 percent while graduate education opportunities have expanded in the WebMBA®, master of science in applied economics, the executive MBA, and



Bill Wells, associate, and newly-appointed interim, dean (l), and Cindy Randall, assistant dean (r), present COBA's farewell gift to Dean Shiffler (c). COBA commissioned an oil of "Freedom" by renowned artist Steve Hein.

WebMacc programs, along with the PhD in logistics and supply chain management, the first in Georgia Southern's 106 year history. The college's regional economic impact, based upon share of students, has doubled during Dean Shiffler's tenure from approximately \$63.1 million to \$134 million.

For CIT, enrollment has grown 27.7 percent while a master of science in computer science

degree and broadband and mobile systems, network and computer security, game programming, and software engineering certification programs have been added.

The colleges have enhanced service, outreach, and applied learning opportunities with centers in entrepreneurial learning, forensic studies, sales, and financial services; software and training partnerships through National Cash Register, i2 Technologies, and Chainalytics; and, the City Campus with its Entrepreneurial Zone and Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development expansion.

The visibility of the college and its business programs has increased with significant endowments, including the third eminent scholar, a chair in banking.

COBA's national reputation has been enhanced by rankings from *The Princeton Review*, *Geteducated.com*, *U. S. News and World Report*, *CEO Magazine*, and *BusinessMBA.org*. Today, COBA is nationally ranked 187<sup>th</sup> in undergraduate business programs, 121<sup>st</sup> in part-time MBA programs, and the MBA and MAcc are among the top 294 business schools rankings in *The Princeton Review*.

Thank you, Dean Shiffler, and best wishes to you and Mrs. Shiffler. ♦

## Giuliani Speaks



Mayor Giuliani

Rudolph W. Giuliani, 1993 mayor of New York elected on the slogan "One City, One Standard," spoke to students at Georgia Southern's Hanner Fieldhouse in March.

Under Giuliani, re-elected in 1997 with 57 percent vote in a city where democrats outnumber republicans five to one, crime fell by 56 percent, murder dropped by 66 percent, and welfare rolls declined by more than 50 percent.

The 9/11 terrorist attack occurred at the end of his second term, final by NYC law, culminating in him being named "Person of the Year" by *Time Magazine*.

Mayor Giuliani's message, "Principled Leadership in the Face of Change and Crisis," focused on six principles, including strong beliefs, passion, and vision for your quest; optimism and hope in the face of all odds; courage to face the potential for failure; practice, study, and preparation for dealing with the unthinkable; teamwork to carry you through weakness; and the ability to communicate, based upon mutual love and respect for people.

Financial support for the program was provided by AT&T. ♦

## Lockwood State's Outstanding Accounting Educator



Dr. Schmidt congratulates Dr. Lockwood at presentation.

The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs has presented **M. Jill Lockwood**, JD LLM, CPA, its Outstanding Accounting Educator Award. The award recognizes Dr. Lockwood's outstanding career in accounting education, leadership in professional and civic organizations, and writing, speaking, curriculum development, and research. Dr. Lockwood has dedicated herself to the accounting profession, university, students, faculty, and community. Her knowledge and skills as an attorney, with an emphasis in taxation and a CPA, provide a unique combination to educate future CPAs and serve the profession. An engaging

presence in the classroom, Dr. Lockwood gives her students personal attention and uses humor to provide practical examples of complex points of law.

Dr. Lockwood explains, "As a tax attorney, one of my first jobs was teaching. It literally forced me to get the accounting classes necessary to effectively teach tax law and accounting. I joined many of my students at the Macon Coliseum that year for the CPA examination."

Both inside and outside the classroom, Dr. Lockwood is committed to furthering students' accounting education. She has excelled in advising and mentoring students as faculty advisor to Beta Alpha Psi, director of Student Advisement and Student Services, and director of the School of Accountancy. Students praise her helpfulness in guiding them through their educational careers by taking the time to fully understand and articulate the university's academic requirements. Fellow faculty members maintain high respect for her knowledge of topics and ability to clearly communicate details. Dr. Lockwood's leadership has been invaluable to the University's Senate and Graduation Committee, as well as the University's

library staff in understanding the need for electronic tax research tools.

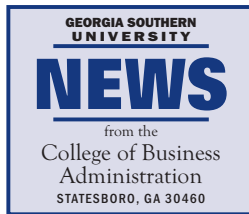
Dr. Lockwood has been active in leadership roles with professional organizations including the Georgia Society of CPAs, where she is past president of the Educational Foundation and active in its conferences and chapter meetings. She lends her skills and passion to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Savannah; Telfair Museum of Art; Savannah Friends of Music; Savannah Symphony; Savannah Tour of Homes; and the Savannah Symphony Women's Guild.

"My life is richer because of the students I have taught. Many are now successful partners of CPA firms and have accomplished much. I have been constantly rewarded for doing something I love," she says.

Georgia Southern has long been a contributor to the Georgia Society of CPAs. Previous Georgia Southern awardees of its Outstanding Accounting Educator Award include **Herb O'Keefe**, **Bill Bostwick**, and **Lowell Mooney**. In addition, **Julian Deal** (BUS ED, 1960) has received the Society's Public and Meritorious Service Awards. ♦

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**Ronald E. Shiffler, Dean**

**Lewis M. Stewart, Alumni Editor**

## The Eagle Executive

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**Graduate Management Admission Council®**

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A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
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# A Message from Dean Shiffler

It has been a privilege to serve as your dean for the past 10 years. In addition to missing the campus and community, I'll miss the student, faculty, staff, and alumni relationships that have grown into friendships.

The past decade has seen tremendous growth. Since 2002, new campus construction has produced the Recreation Activities Center; the Bishop Alumni House; residence halls Eagle Village, Southern Pines, and Centennial Place; the College of Information Technology building; and a complete renovation and expansion of Henderson Library. Our campus is lovely and modern—a great place to work and learn!

I will miss the Statesboro community, which warmly welcomed Barbara and me despite the fact that we were "not from around here." My work with the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce opened many doors and led to many friendships with the business men and women of the region. There is a "can do" attitude in Bulloch County, in which everyone celebrates the success of others. Refreshing!

When I think of the new businesses and venues established in the past 10 years, I think of the Averitt Center for the Arts, Farmers' Market, numerous restaurants and apartment complexes, the Market District, Buckhead business district, several new hotels, and City Campus. What a tremendous period of growth for Statesboro!

People are what matter, though, and the fine folks with whom I have worked and interacted will always be special. I salute the COBA and CIT staff who handle operational details, paperwork, lost students, and grumpy callers with a marvelous degree of professionalism. At the risk of offending those not named, I especially thank **Carolyn Price** and **Lisa Williams**, who are always upbeat, dependable, creative, and make the impossible, possible.

The faculty corps has changed dramatically in the past decade: 60 percent of current COBA faculty have been hired since 2002.



I am truly proud of the excellent, supportive faculty members who shine as teachers and scholars and contribute countless hours to service.

But, where would we be without our alumni? You are the best! You come back to campus and serve as guest speakers. You keep **Lewis Stewart** busy by updating addresses and career successes. You serve on advisory boards, hire graduates, promote Georgia Southern among your friends, support Eagle athletics, and contribute hard-earned dollars to COBA. Thank you! In short, you make us proud to know that we helped you prepare for your life's journey.

We have accomplished much together in the past 10 years, including the first-ever Ph.D. program, online degree programs in economics and computer science, and incredible enrollment and revenue growth in the WebMBA® program. It has led to a long list of national and international rankings, the first-ever *U.S. News & World Report* ranking for our part-time MBA program, national recognition for the forensic accounting initiative, centers in forensic studies, sales, entrepreneurial learning and leadership, and financial services, the opening of the City Campus and the Entrepreneurial Zone, and two successful AACSB reaccreditations, with a third, forthcoming, this fall.

I am proud to have written 459 consecutive weekly editions of the "Dean's Update," as of May 1, to keep us abreast of what's happening. I am proud we added to the foundation built by former deans **Paul LaGrone**, **Ori James**, and **Carl Gooding**. And, I am proud to be an Eagle—now and forever. Thank you all for making my years at Georgia Southern special and fulfilling!

*Ronald E. Shiffler*

## Forensic Fraud Symposium

Hilton DeSoto Historic District, Savannah

**May 15-17, 2012**

<http://www.pkm.com/fraudconference/information.php>

**COBA's Center for Forensic Studies and Porter Keadle Moore, LLP**

## From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from Statesboro!



When I arrived to teach finance and economics in the Division of Business in September 1970, Georgia Southern College had 5,687 students, and Dr. **Paul LaGrone** was our leader. In the 1974, the Division of Business became the School of Business, and the new dean was Dr. **Ori James**. In 1986, Dr. **Carl Gooding** became our dean, and, in the 1990's, the School of Business became the College of Business Administration. For the past ten years, our dean has been Dr. Ron Shiffler, but, now he is leaving us for North Carolina. Our acting dean will be the former chair of the Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis, Dr. **Bill Wells**, who now serves as associate dean. Each dean has left the business area stronger, larger, and better equipped to produce graduates with the skills needed to succeed in today's marketplace.

When I hear young people who attend colleges and universities in other parts of the country talk about having classes of 800 or more students, I think about how fortunate our COBA students are since we have only one room that will hold 100. Our faculty members are hired to be teachers and are usually in their

offices during office hours. In COBA, graduate students are not used to teach classes.

When I hear from our alums—via blue cards or emails—many relate how their classes at Georgia Southern prepared them to take leadership roles in their companies very quickly and move to better positions. I wish more would return those blue cards so we would have a better look at our "product" in the real world. It helps to see where our graduates are working and get "feedback" from those in the workplace.

The 'Boro keeps growing with Steak 'n Shake about to open near the Cracker Barrel and Olive Garden. Georgia Southern is getting a new biology building on Akins Boulevard and plans have been announced for a capital campaign to make it possible for Southern to move from the FCS to the BCS football division.

When the first issue of the *Update*—later to become the *Eagle Executive*—was mailed, I suggested, if each of our 6,000 business graduates would give ten dollars a month to their alma mater, we could do really great things. Now, COBA has about 21,000 alums and, at ten dollars a month—well, you can do the math! Tuition covers less than 25 percent of the cost of education. The need for, and importance of, individual contributions and grants is more crucial now than ever.

I hope to see you at a football game or get your blue card!

*Lewis M. Stewart*



# Department News

## Finance & Quantitative Analysis

**Jerry Burke** has been selected to serve as an associate editor of the *Decision Sciences Journal*, a top tier journal in the fields of operations and supply chain management, as well as information systems and technology.

**Barbara Price** was recently elected to the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute (SEDSI) Council for a two-year term.

## Information Systems

**Cheryl Aasheim** has been elected secretary for the SEDSI professional organization.

**Tom Case** addressed a faculty development conference for the Perdue School of Business, Salisbury University, MD, in January. His presentation featured the HEC Montreal's ERP Sim game and SAP University Alliance.

**Mallory Mitchell** (FIN, 2010), an SAP associate analyst for Newell Rubbermaid's Catapult Business Analytics, returned to campus for the Internship and Summer Job Fair sponsored by Career Services in March. She spoke to several information systems classes and the SAP@GSU Advantage student group, highlighting SAP career opportunities at Newell Rubbermaid, the value of ASUG involvement, and the TERP10 SAP Academy.

## Management, Marketing, & Logistics

**Nick DeBonis** presented, "How the GaView Learning Management System and Internet can be used to create an innovative learning environment," to the Connected & Mobile Learning session track of the University System of Georgia Teaching and Learning Conference: Best Practices for Promoting Engaged Student Learning held at Unicoi State Park Lodge, Helen.

**Jan Grimes** attended "The Changing Face of Management Education" symposium hosted by McGraw Hill in Tucson, AZ, in March.

**Lindsay Larson** welcomed Dr. **Bruce Levine** to her professional selling class in March. Dr. Levine received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Cincinnati. The nationally recognized psychologist, author, and lecturer addressed how cognitive explanatory styles of salespeople influence their success rates.

**Scott Webb** accompanied a team of Georgia Southern logistics students to Denver, CO, where fifteen universities competed in the annual Operation Stimulus Case Competition.

**Kathleen Gruben**, director of the Center for Retail Studies, recently accompanied retailing students **Brent McFall**, **Rachel Oxford**, **Matthew Royal**, **Rachel Wakefield**, **Nicole Wanco**, and **Ashley White** to New York to participate in the American Express and National Retail Federation intercollegiate competition. **Nicole Wanco** won a \$2,500 scholarship from Toys "R" Us.

Logistics alumni **Wes Perry** and **J. J. Cavanaugh**, Exel Logistics, spoke to students in **Karl Manrodt's** classes about career preparation and the 3PL industry.

Karl Manrodt presented findings from his research on warehousing metrics at the MODEX conference in Atlanta, one of the largest expos of materials handling equipment/technology in North America. **Donnie Williams**, LIT PhD student, chaperoned five undergraduate logistics students to the event.

**Donnie Williams** and **Stephanie Thomas**, LIT PhD students, attended Ohio State University's Logistics Doctoral Symposium, dedicated to preparing doctoral students for academic careers. Topics included research methodology, working with industry, tenure, job searches, career management, working with co-authors, and dissertation research streams.



Phil Cobb

Mr. **Phil Cobb**, immediate past chair of the Construction Management Industry Advisory Board addressed a dinner honoring construction management graduates during which eighteen scholarships were awarded to continuing construction management students.

## School of Accountancy

The student chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners hosted U.S. District Court Judge **Lisa Wood**, Southern District of Georgia, along with SEC Attorney **William Dixon**, Atlanta, an expert on the investigation and prosecution of insider trading.

**Bob Jackson** welcomed **Bill Donaldson**, deputy inspector general in the Office of the State Inspector General in Atlanta, to his governmental accounting class in early February. Mr. Donaldson described his path from graduation at Georgia Southern to his current position, including completion of his CPA and his CFE certifications.

**Stephanie Sipe** has been named editor of the *Journal of Legal Studies in Business*. In her employment law classes, Dr. Sipe welcomed guest speakers **Mike Chambers**, director of the Student Disability Resource Center, and Lt. Col. **Timothy Gauthier**.



Tim Gauthier

## School of Economic Development

**Ana Isabel Grijalva Díaz**, visiting professor from Sonora, Mexico, joins SED in 2012 on the equivalent of a Mexican Fulbright Scholarship to the U.S. Ana Isabel received a history degree from the University of Sonora, a master in social sciences from the School of Sonora, and a Ph.D. in social sciences from the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, Culiacán, Mexico.

## Price Becomes ABET's Computing Accreditation Commission Chair



Dr. **Barbara Price**, professor, Finance & Quantitative Analysis, has been appointed chair of the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission for 2012-13. The announcement by Dr. **Joseph L. Sussman**, ABET managing director of Accreditation, Baltimore, MD, came in late March. ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, through its predecessor, CSAB, the former Computing Sciences Accreditation Board, is the lead society for accreditation in computer

science, information systems, software engineering, information technology, and computer engineering for more than 2,800 programs at more than 600 colleges and universities around the world.

As chair, and member of the executive committee of the Commission, Dr. Price will assume leadership at the Summer 2012 meetings in Arlington, VA, and become a contributor for the Commission's statement evaluation processes, a member of the accreditation visit teams for the 2012-13 cycle, and represent the Commission in its deliberations with related Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology Commissions under the ABET umbrella of responsibility. She previously served as representative director of the Association for Computing Machinery to CSAB in 2008. ♦

*Congratulations  
Donna Orme,  
Georgia Southern  
2012 Staff Award  
of Excellence  
Recipient!*



## Faculty Promoted and Tenured

**Jacqueline K. Eastman**  
Promoted to Professor of Marketing

**Christopher A. Kadlec**  
Promoted to Associate Professor of Information Technology and Tenured

**Misty L. Loughry**  
Promoted to Professor of Management

**Timur Z. Mirzoev**  
Promoted to Associate Professor of Information Technology and Tenured

**Linda G. Mullen**  
Promoted to Associate Professor of Marketing

**William I. Norton, Jr.**  
Tenured

**Joseph S. Rohland**  
Promoted to Associate Professor of Finance and Tenured

**Paige S. Ruter**  
Tenured

**Michael L. Thomas**  
Promoted to Associate Professor of Marketing and Tenured

## COBAns Attend National Advising Conference

COBA Advisors, **Rashonda Bostic**, **Patti Kelly**, **Lisa Sapp**, **Leslie Sheppard**, **Stephanie Williams**, **Bobbie Williams**, **Jean Nessmith**, and **Chris Lundy** attended the National Academic Advising Association's Region 4 Conference on quality academic advising for institutions of higher education, held in Miami, FL, during Spring Break, March 12-16, 2012.

COBA's delegation presented "Extreme Makeover: The Transformation from Faculty-Driven Advisement to Center-Based Professional Advisement." The presentation included visual depictions of the evolution of COBA's advisement center to the state-of-the-art academic advisement center it is today.



Pictured from l-to-r: **Rashonda Bostic**, **Patti Kelly**, **Lisa Sapp**, **Leslie Sheppard**, **Stephanie Williams**, **Bobbie Williams**, and **Jean Nessmith**; bottom: **Chris Lundy**

# Hickman Is Beta Gamma Sigma Honoree

The Georgia Southern Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) inducted thirty-one juniors, thirty seniors, four masters, and three faculty, **Misty L. Loughry**, **Stephanie R. Sipe**, and **Larry D. Stalcup**, at its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet in April. Chapter President **Cheryl Metrejean** presented the 2012-13 BGS scholarship to **Samantha Williams**.

The 2012 Beta Gamma Sigma honoree was **William R. Hickman, Jr.**, a licensed certified public accountant in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina and certified in financial forensics by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Hickman earned an accounting degree from Georgia Southern and began his career at Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon, LLP, in 1974. He became partner in 1983 and served as managing partner from 1998 through 2008. His responsibilities since 2008 have included leading the forensic division of the practice, corporate taxation, litigation support, and small business planning. Billy has served as accountant for the Trustee

in Bankruptcy for Chapter 7 and 11 as well as Chapter 11 examiner, appearing in the Southern District of Georgia Federal Courts and Bankruptcy Courts in Savannah, Augusta, and Columbia, SC.

He is a member of the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and past president of the Southeast Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants. Billy is past president of the Statesboro Bulloch Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Southeast Georgia, Relay for Life, Optimist Club, and Ogeechee Technical College Foundation, and presently serves on the COBA School of

Accountancy Advisory Council, COBA Business Advisory Council, Georgia Southern University Foundation, and Ogeechee Technical College executive committee. He chaired the 2004 *A Day for Southern* campaign for Georgia Southern.



Billy Hickman

Billy has served on the board of Excelsior Electric Membership Cooperative and the Development Authority of Bulloch County. He was named Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award recipient in 1989, Outstanding Accounting Alumnus for Georgia Southern in 1998, and Statesboro Bulloch Business Leader of the Year in 2007.

The Beta Gamma Sigma honor society is sponsored by AACSB International: The

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Only business schools that have earned AACSB accreditation are eligible to have BGS chapters. Inductees to this society receive the highest recognition business students worldwide may receive. The mission of BGS is "to encourage and honor academic achievement in the study of business, to foster personal and professional excellence, to advance the values of the Society, and to serve its lifelong members." The chapter honoree designation is offered to those who have furthered the ideals of the society through outstanding business and managerial leadership.

The Georgia Southern University chapter was formed in 1982 under the leadership of accounting professor **Horace Harrell** and former dean **Ori James**. Both undergraduate and graduate business majors are eligible to join, provided they are in the top 15 percent of the junior class and top 10 percent of the senior class. ♦



## BETA GAMMA SIGMA

The Honor Society for AACSB Accrediting Business Programs

### Junior Inductees

Maria M. Acheson  
Nathan E. Baca  
Cree A. Belcher  
Gale A. Blackmore  
Shantrice I. Bradley  
William D. Bryan  
Shannon N. Collins  
Vincent S. Dattilo  
Richard N. Deal  
John P. Denoyelles  
Misty N. Dobbs  
Tara E. Dunn  
Andrea M. Garay Vasquez  
Jamie L. Herrmann  
Patrick A. Jacobs

Bridgette R. Jordan  
Alexandra A. Langmo  
Laura E. Maddox  
Whitney R. Mann  
Kristina L. McCallum  
Phillip G. McGahee  
William A. Meira  
Megan K. Micheletti  
Patrick D. Mimbs  
Robert T. Minor  
Lindsey A. Monroe  
Caroline Sanders  
Kelly E. Sexton  
Robert W. Switts  
David D. Tammen  
Gregory D. Vick

### Senior Inductees

Frank E. Alvarado  
Ashley M. Baxter  
Donnie H. Callahan  
Morris J. Conner  
Courtney L. Courson  
Eric De Oliveira  
Vashayla J. Frinks  
Alain Garrido Rodriguez  
Charles W. Greer  
Katie E. Groves  
Samantha B. Hairston  
Lucretia V. Haynie  
Craig A. Ingalls  
Derek A. Kauhane  
Chad P. Meyer

Grevie R. Neymour  
Katherine M. Olive  
Brandi N. Phillips  
Collin W. Phillips  
Phillip D. Scroggin  
Sean G. Slone  
Heather L. Stille  
James B. Stone  
Eric A. Sweet  
Jason R. Thomas  
Jonathan A. Thompson  
Brittney M. Thrift  
Jayson W. Treadway  
Anson A. Walden  
Michelle R. Wise



Samantha F. Williams, 2012-13 Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship recipient, and Dean Ron Shiffler

### Graduate Inductees

Bret S. Danilowicz  
John M. Larkin  
Anson F. Ratliff  
Kelly M. Struble

## Groom Inaugural Carter Lecturer

The Carter Lecture Series, created under the W. E. Carter Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Business Administration, honors benefactor's nephew, Dr. **Harry S. Carter**, who received his Ph.D. in management science and information systems from The University of Georgia. Formerly vice president for academic affairs and president at Georgia Southern, Dr. Carter was provost and



Dr. Carter

dean of college at The Citadel, Charleston, SC, where he is currently professor of business administration.

Dr. Carter hosted the inaugural Carter Lecture by introducing featured speaker, Duquesne University Assistant Professor and

Undergraduate Director, Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Dr. **Alyssa Groom**. The topic of her address was "Student Leadership: Lessons from a Recovering Fool!"

Dr. Groom identified leadership as a "calling" or "voice," most often preceded by preparedness, knowledge, and intense search. She emphasized leaders must avoid the trap of being a "fool," identifying the five progressive fool-snares of life: (1) the simple fool, or immature, believe anything fool; (2) the silly fool, the big mouth; (3) the sensual fool, seeking immediate gratification; (4) the scornful fool, holding disdain and contempt for authority; and (5) the steadfast fool, seeking to destroy value of others.

According to Dr. Groom, leadership evolves from the "fool moments" when individuals "let go" and begin to understand the principles of leadership, including leadership decisions are concrete "to do," or "not to do"—there is no "try" for leaders; excuses are simply lies in



Dr. Groom

disguise—avoid them; there is no "cool"—you are what you are; avoid the "me" in mediocrity and "stuck" in status quo—dare greatly; where the mind goes—it happens; you may "remark on life" or "remake life"—it is your choice; and, finally, each person is "prepackaged for uniqueness—you own who you are" in life!

Dr. Groom was treated to a rousing applause from students in attendance. ♦

## LIT Career Fair

The annual logistics career fair was held in the CIT atrium in February as recruiters from 16 high profile companies interviewed students, including C. H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., C. L. Services, Inc., CSS International, CSX Transportation; Exel; Fasental; Hub Group; Newell Rubbermaid; Pier 1 Imports; Rural Sourcing, Inc.; Schneider National; SouthEastern Freight Lines; Superior Carriers, Inc.; Tennessee Commercial Warehouse; TICO; and Transportation Insight. The night before the event, company representatives met with student members of the Georgia Southern Logistics Association to discuss interviewing tips and career planning.

That evening, **Karl Manrodt** and the logistics faculty hosted the recruiters at dinner. ♦





## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Accounting Day Celebrated



Nichols Cauley & Associates representatives (l-r) Cate Cassotta, Lacey Burkett, an SOA alumna, and Jennifer Gay Veal, an SOA alumna, speak to student, Aaron Cohen (l) at Career Fair.

The Zeta Delta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi and the Georgia Southern University Accounting Association sponsored the School of Accountancy's (SOA) 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Accounting Day Awards Banquet on May 3, 2012. The evening's events began with a career fair for accounting majors. Twenty-two accounting firms and professional organizations with more than 50 industry representatives met with students to discuss full-time positions and internships. The evening ended with the annual awards banquet during which the School awarded scholarships.

Beta Alpha Psi President, **Kenny Douglas**, recognized several members for their active participation in the accounting honor society, and presented scholarships to **LaShai Johsua**, **Audrey Xu**, **Stanton Harrell**, and **Merrit Smith**. Kenny, joined by fellow officer **Caleb Holloway**, also gave special recognition to Dr. **Dwight Sneathen**, who will relinquish his role as Beta Alpha Psi faculty advisor to Dr. **Eddie Metrejean**.

Accounting Association Vice President **Josh Fox** presented Accounting Association scholarships to **Richard Winter** and **Audrey Xu**. The Accounting Association presented the Professor of the Year Award to **Nicholas Lynch**.

Academic Achievement awards jointly sponsored by the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs and area chapters were presented to **Justin Davis** and **Collin Phillips** by **Wayne Yesbick**, Draffin & Tucker, from the Albany Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; **Brandi Phillips** and **Tiffany White** by **Lindsey Bickmore**, Moore Stephens Tiller, from the Coastal Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; to **Christopher Chernek**, **Rachel Clift**, **David Helton**, **Mary Kathryn Mason**, **Andrea Mok**, and **Delaney Tuggle** presented by **Cate Cassotta**, Nichols Cauley

& Associates, from the Heart of Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; to **Bridgette Jordan** presented by **Tal Johnson**, of Dabbs Hickman Hill & Cannon, Savannah, from the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs; and to **Jonathan Eargle**, **LaShai Joshua**, and **Lauren Hughes** presented by Dr. **Chuck Harter** from the Southeast Chapter of the Georgia Society of CPAs.

**Stephanie Todd** presented the Savannah Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants Academic Distinction Award to **Michael Harshner**, and **Monica Woods** presented the Coastal Georgia Chapter of the



L-r Rachel Neely, Amy Stanley, Dustin Thornton, Savannah Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants; Shannon Brownlee; Jeffrey Hupman; and Allison Jansen

Institute of Internal Auditors Academic Distinction Award to **Samantha Hairston**.

**Allison Jansen** received the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award for being the SOA's top graduating senior. This award was presented by **Paula Mooney**.

**Billy Hickman**, Dabbs Hickman Hill & Cannon, Statesboro, a charter member of the Accounting Advisory Council, presented the Accounting Advisory Council award to **Shannon Brownlee**.

**Maryanne Scales**, Becker CPA Professional Education, awarded **Allison Jansen** a full CPA review package and awarded half CPA review packages to **Heather Stille**, **Cecelia Reames**, and **Andrea Mok**.

The Southeast Georgia and Savannah Chapters of the Georgia Society of CPAs, jointly with the Georgia Society's Educational Foundation, co-sponsored the Georgia Accountants' Team Effort program. Presented by Dr. Dwight Sneathen, this year's recipients were **Jeremy Story**, **Rachel Neely**, **Rebecca Beck**, **Qingqing Liu**, **Amy Stanley**, and **Kristen Birchett**.

**Kevin Lucier**, Gifford, Hillegass & Ingwersen, Atlanta, presented the Ronald A. Lundstrom Scholarship in Forensic Accounting to **Jyotsna Rao**.



Front row l-r Christopher Chernek; Cate Cassotta, Nichols Cauley & Associates; Andrea Mok; Tiffany White; Collin Phillips; Lindsey Bickmore, Moore Stephens Tiller; back row l-r Mary Kathryn Mason; Delaney Tuggle; David Helton; Brandi Phillips; and Wayne Yesbick, Draffin & Tucker

The first-time scholarship from Elliott Davis, Greenville, SC, was presented to **Clark Allen** by **Rob Lacher**.

The International Student Award, sponsored by SOA and presented by Dr. **Leslie Fletcher** went to **Audrey Xu**.

The Paul G. LaGrone Scholarships, established by former Business Dean Dr. **Paul G. LaGrone**, were awarded to **Delaney Tuggle** and **Courtney Martin** by Dr. **Jill Lockwood**.

**Wayne Yesbick**, Draffin and Tucker, Albany, presented scholarships to **Shannon Collins** and **Sarah Foster**. **Alex Knight**, Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, Atlanta, presented scholarships to **Samantha Hairston** and **Joshua Pollack**. **Kristen Lord**, Mauldin and Jenkins, Albany, presented scholarships to **Grevie Neymour** and **Alain Garrido**; **Tim Sobon**, Moore Stephens Tiller, Brunswick, presented scholarships to **Caleb Holloway**, **Jessica Williams**, and **Charles Riebel**; **Cate Cassotta**, Nichols Cauley and Associates, Dublin, presented scholarships to **Tara Dunn** and **Samantha Williams**. **Debbie Sessions**, Porter Keadle Moore, Atlanta, presented an award to **Gale Blackmore**.

This year's D. Greg Morgan Family Scholarship sponsored by **Greg and Ruth Morgan**, Atlanta, was presented to **Travis Page** by **June Paschal**, Mauldin & Jenkins.

**Roy Austin**, the Savannah CFO Council, presented awards to **Darshana Patel** and **Christopher Williamson**.

Dr. **Jerry Wilson**, SOA interim director, presented faculty awards to Dr. **Nick Lynch**,



Mauldin & Jenkins representatives, including SOA alumnus Mark Fletcher, speak to students at Career Fair prior to the awards dinner portion of the Accounting Day festivities.

for excellence in research and Dr. **Lowell Mooney** for excellence in service.

Accounting Day is made possible through the generosity of many organizations that have supported Georgia Southern's accounting program for several years. Many thanks go to corporate sponsors **Becker Professional Review**; **Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP**; **CollegeFrog, Inc.**; **Dabbs Hickman Hill and Cannon, LLP**; **Draffin and Tucker, LLP**; **Elliott Davis, LLC**; **Ernst & Young, LLP**; the **Georgia Society of CPAs**; **Gifford Hillegass and Ingwersen, LLP**; **Habif Arogeti and Wynne, LLP**; **Hancock Askew and Co., LLP**; **William T. Herring, Holland, Henry & Bromley, LLP**; the **Institute of Management Accountants**; **KPMG, LLP**; **Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC**; **Moore Stephens Tiller, LLC**; **Nichols Cauley & Associates, LLC**; **Porter Keadle Moore, LLC**; and **Windham Brannon, PC**. ♦

## a.k.a.demy Awards Dinner Held

Porter Keadle Moore, LLP, one of the nation's best accounting firms to work for, a top SEC audit firm, and top 100 auditors in the country, sponsored an inaugural signature etiquette dinner event for COBA, known as the *a.k.a.demy Awards* dinner. **Phil Moore**, PKM managing partner, was



joined by **Debbie Sessions**, chief operating officer and partner, **Christie Bell**, human resources director, and **Michael Maslar**, **Joshua Biles**, **Carrie Connell**, **Lauren Bundy**, **Cayci Moon**, **Adam Polakov**, and **Ryan Barrow**, professional staffers, to mentor and coach the students between dinner courses on choosing a firm compatible with career goals, attaining a healthy work-life balance, and determining if a firm is really committed to professional development and advancement.

Approximately thirty accounting majors participated in the event, held at Emma's Restaurant, Holiday Inn, Statesboro. ♦

## The Forensic Accounting Board

The Forensic Accounting Advisory Board held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in February and celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of COBA's forensic accounting initiative.



Board chair **Scott Hilsen**, KPMG, welcomed members of the board including **Wes Sherrell**, Department of Audits & Accounts; **Chuck Owens**, Ernst & Young; **Jason Moran**, FDIC-Office of Inspector General; **Wesley Pennington**, PWC; **Ron Lepionka**, AGL Resources; **Christopher Edwards**, Clifton, Lipford, Hardison & Parker; **Larry Wiley**, BB&T Investigative; **John Shurley**, Gifford, Hillegass & Ingwersen; **Marc Effron**, Elm Street Professionals; **Philip Robertson**, retired, FDIC; **Scott Phillips**, Walmart; **Bill Donaldson**, IG Office; **William Griffin**, Secret Service; **Sandy Peavy**, FLETC; **Laurie Dyke**, Investigative Accounting Group; **Stephen Spiers**, KPMG; **Matt Duke**, GBI; **Vic Hartman**, FBI; and **Patrick Braley**, Bennett Thrasher.

Marc Effron, incoming board chair, announced the board's strategic initiative of establishing a master in forensic accounting to maintain COBA's national forensic education leadership. He recognized **Lowell Mooney**, chair, 2002 founding forensic committee, who described the conception and evolution of the program and thanked **Don Berecz**, Center director, for his leadership in forming the advisory board. ♦

For more information on any of our accounting programs, please contact

School of Accounting, P. O. Box 8141 • Room 2203, Statesboro, GA 30460-8141,

Phone: (912) 478-2228, E-Mail: [dsneathen@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dsneathen@georgiasouthern.edu), Website: <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/depts/acc/>.



# Spotlight on Graduate Studies

## From the Directors

### MSAE



Godfrey Gibbison

COBA's Master of Science in Applied Economics made its debut in the Fall of 2008 with an initial class of 15. Today, the online program has 15 graduates, a stabilized average enrollment of 65 students, and a new Coordinator, **Donna Fisher**.

Dr. Fisher joined the faculty at Georgia Southern in 2001 and was instrumental in organizing the regional economic development major for the School of Economic Development (SED).

Former MSAE Coordinator and SED Director **Godfrey Gibbison** recently announced he will be leaving COBA to

become dean of College of Charleston's North Campus, effective July 1. He has been with Georgia Southern since August 2002 and SED director since 2009.

At North Campus, Dr. Gibbison will be responsible for academic program development for traditional and non-traditional students. A new bachelor of professional studies, an adult degree program, is under development and Dr. Gibbison plans to forge new partnerships in the community, "while putting people at the forefront of economic development," he said. ♦



Donna Fisher

### MBA

The MBA Office is excited to announce its inaugural class of the new Executive MBA program (EMBA) for this fall. The EMBA is designed for the senior-level, business leader interested in strengthening their expertise. The new MBA program has an Entrepreneurial Leadership emphasis, which appeals to the small business owner, as well as to the C-level executive in a multinational corporation. The program is designed with the needs of the student and employer in mind and is delivered with minimal professional interruption. It consists of 46 total credit hours, and the courses are in an online format with two on-campus residencies and an international experience as the capstone course. Dean **Ron Shiffler** said, "We expect to draw candidates from all over the United States. In addition to the convenience

of learning online, students will take courses in ten-week sessions. This will give Executive MBA students the option of finishing their degrees more quickly than they would if the program were delivered in a traditional semester format."

For more information on how to achieve an EMBA and to learn more about the program, please contact the MBA Office at (912) 478-5767 or email [mba@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:mba@georgiasouthern.edu). ♦



Kate Channell

*Kate Channell*

## Pittman Is Freeman Lecturer

The fourth annual William A. Freeman Memorial Lecture was convened by Dean **Ron Shiffler**, welcoming students and introducing lecture series benefactor, the late **Bill Freeman**, a 1957 graduate of Georgia Southern, who was president, chief financial officer, and director of Watkins Associated Industries and managing general partner of Wilwat Properties, Atlanta. Mr. Freeman endowed the William A. Freeman Distinguished Chair of Free Enterprise, Freeman Business Scholars Program including full, four-year scholarships in business, ten scholarships in the University Honors Program, and the COBA Professor of the Year Award since 1991—the year he was named COBA Alumnus of the Year. Prior to his death in November 2001, Mr. Freeman was inducted into the COBA Hall of Fame in 1998, named the Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters at the May 1999 graduation ceremonies.

**William Pittman** (MBA, 1997), vice president, product development for Total Merchant Services, Inc., a credit card payment processor, presented the lecture "Become an Entrepreneur: Anyone Can Do It!" Bill explained he once thought starting a business at home was next to impossible, yet, learned hard work and dedication can bring success. For aspiring entrepreneurs, Bill advised "be a man of your word. One of the things I have learned is that you have to do what you say you're going to do," he said. "It is all about being true to your word."

With a 1985 BS in chemical engineering from the University of South Florida, Bill began his entrepreneurial career as a chemical analyst writing software programs and decided to get an MBA at Georgia Southern.



While pursuing his MBA, Bill developed and grew GO Software, Savannah, a PC-based electronic payment processing system, to 50 employees and sold it to a Seattle, WA, firm. Later, another of his businesses, PC Charge, grew to become the industry software standard in PC payment processing, now marketed by VeriFone Systems, Inc. Bill co-founded TPI Software, LLC, Redmond, WA, and developed the Smart Payments Server, which processed payments universally. TPI was purchased by Hypercom Corporation, a leader in payment processing, where Bill became vice president, Payment Solutions Group.

More recently, Bill started SoundPOS, LLC, a small business checkout system, and transitioned it to a private investment firm. He then accepted a senior products manager position at Amazon.com in Global Payments Product Services, prior to his present position with Total Merchant Services in Calabasas, CA.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Dean **Ron Shiffler** introduced Dr. **Luke Pittaway**, William A. Freeman Distinguished chair in Free Enterprise and director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership, who moderated a question and answer session. ♦

## WebMBA® Ranked #15 in the Nation

The Georgia WebMBA®, the online master of business administration program offered by Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration, along with five other members of

the University System of Georgia, was ranked No. 15 in the Top 25 "Best Value" Online MBA programs by *BusinessMBA.org*, an online resource for information and rankings of the nation's best business schools and MBA programs. While Arizona State University's program took the No. 1

ranking, the Georgia WebMBA® program ranks ahead of other online MBA programs including those from the University of Memphis, Mississippi State University, and the University of Texas Online Consortium.

Georgia Southern has offered the master of business administration degree since 1969. Its

graduates have achieved successful careers in finance, banking, marketing, manufacturing, logistics, information systems, economic development, accounting, real estate, human resources, entrepreneurship, and management among the best regional, national, and international firms and organizations. In an increasingly complex and changing world, Georgia Southern's MBA emphasizes fundamental knowledge and skills for today's modern administration, management, and executive decision-making. All the business programs offered by Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration, including

the Georgia WebMBA®, are accredited by AACSB International: The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

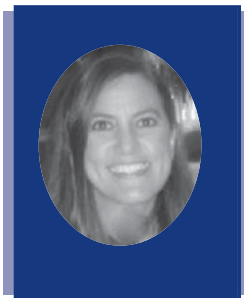
"The Georgia WebMBA® adds significant value for our students in several ways—through accreditation, affordability, and team-based learning opportunities. Our eleven-year history of delivering a quality-controlled, online program ensures our students are receiving a top-quality education at a price they can afford," said **Ron Shiffler**, lead dean and program coordinator for the Georgia WebMBA®. "We are excited to be recognized by *BusinessMBA.org* as a 'Best Value' in online delivery of the MBA," he concluded. ♦





# ALUMNI **in the** SPOTLIGHT

## Nichole Krieger



**Nichole Calandra Krieger** (MKT, 1994) is senior director of corporate and direct marketing for the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated

solely to the benefit and representation of individuals with spinal cord injury or disease. She has been the senior director of corporate and direct marketing since 2009. Her role includes managing the strategic direction of the Paralyzed Veterans' Corporate Fundraising programs as well as PVA's Direct Marketing and Motor Sports initiatives. These programs comprise almost 90 percent of PVA's overall revenue totaling over \$100 million per year.

Nichole has worked with the Paralyzed Veterans of America since 1995, primarily planning events such as the annual *Paralyzed Veterans Americana Gala* and the *National Veterans Wheelchair Games*, the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world.

Nichole lives in Arlington, VA, with her husband, Andy. ♦

## Andreas Zangemeister



**Dr. Andreas Zangemeister** (GEN BUS, 1992) is currently a director and shareholder of a group of telecommunications, travel, and energy companies. The Reise Service Deutsch-

land (RSD) travel agency has experienced rapid growth by providing more than 300,000 customers trips to Turkey, Dubai, Malta, Cyprus, and Spain annually. RSD has plans to expand its operations to the United Kingdom and the United States.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, Andreas returned to his native Germany and graduated from University of Cologne in 1995. While working as a business consultant for the TUV Rheinland Group, he finished his doctorate in accounting and was promoted to CFO of a subsidiary within the TUV Rheinland Group. In 2002, he left this position to become the director of corporate controlling at Hubert Burda Media, one of Germany's top three media companies, then accepting his current position in 2006. ♦

## Paolo Ambrosini



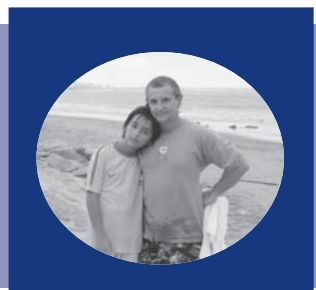
**Paolo Ambrosini** (ECON-Agri-Bus, 1986) has been advertising manager with the TV Cable Group, one of the largest and first cable providers in Ecuador since 2005. He is also owner and general manager of Comarketing, an advertising agency he founded in 2003.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, where he was on the swim team, Paolo returned to his native Ecuador to serve as a brand accountant and budget analyst for Colgate Palmolive. He was promoted to brand manager of the Home Care and Oral

Care division of Colgate in 1990. In 1992, he left Colgate to work in marketing for the Gillette and Noboa Groups.

In 1996, Paolo received his master of marketing degree from the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico and worked for Coca-Cola in Ecuador as a marketing manager until 2003. After Coca-Cola, Paolo founded his advertising company, Comarketing.

Paolo and his wife currently reside in Guayaquil, Ecuador, with their nine children. ♦



## Patrick O'Connell



**Patrick O'Connell** (LOG, 1999) is employed with the Hilti Corporation, a global leader in construction tools with a presence in more than 120 countries worldwide, as head of warehouse, Central Europe. He is responsible for all warehouse operations in Switzerland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Poland, and Austria. This challenge has been a unique opportunity for him to experience multiple

cultures, different logistics concepts, and new languages as he traveled the region.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, Patrick worked for eight years for Menlo Worldwide Logistics and relocated multiple times to include Dallas-Fort Worth, Minneapolis, Atlanta, and Memphis. While with Menlo, he received his MBA from the Terry College of Business at The University of Georgia (2004).

In 2007, Patrick joined Hilti Corporation as director of distribution in Tulsa, OK, responsible for its eastern U.S. and Canada distribution facilities. He was promoted to head of warehouse, Central Europe in 2011.

Patrick is a past international president of Delta Nu Alpha (DNA), an international organization of professional men and women in the field of transportation and logistics. He was introduced to DNA while a student at Georgia Southern.

Patrick and his wife, Emily, currently live in Düsseldorf, Germany. ♦



# 2012 Awards

The 2012 Awards of Excellence for faculty and staff were presented at a banquet and ceremony held at Spring Hill Suites Hospitality April 13, 2012.

## The William A. Freeman Professor of the Year

J. Lowell Mooney



Lowell Mooney received a BA, master of accounting, and a PhD in accounting, with minor in MIS, from The University of Georgia. He has been at Georgia Southern for 23 years and is a certified public and managerial accountant.

Dr. Mooney is past president of the Education Foundation, Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants, which has provided more than \$1 million in scholarships to accounting majors in the state, past director of the School of Accountancy, and past faculty advisor for Zeta Delta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honorary fraternity.

He has received several teaching awards including the Beta Alpha Psi's Outstanding Faculty Award, Accounting Information Systems Educators' Conference Best Paper Award, the college's Martin NeSmith Service Award and Accounting Association's Professor of the Year Award.

During his service as director of the School of Accountancy, Dr. Mooney initiated several programs unique to SOA, including Meet the Firms, where representatives seeking accounting majors come to campus; SOARING, a fall event for new and returning accounting majors; Principles Recognition Awards, a recognition program for students who excel in Act 2101 and 2102; and, the School of Accountancy Leadership Council.

Lowell Mooney is one of the best teachers in the college. Students report he cares about their classroom success and future careers, while peers recognize his service to students distinguishes him as one of COBA's top professors.

## The W. A. & Emma Lou Crider Award for Excellence in Teaching

Feruzan Irani Williams



This year's recipient of the Crider Teaching Award, Feruzan Irani Williams, was born to be in the classroom. Her students often remark in their evaluations that she is always well prepared and organized, as well as being extremely knowledgeable on the related subject matter. In addition to her

knowledge and preparation, students often state that she is both caring and helpful inside and outside the classroom; however, both her student and peers agree that Dr. Williams's funny, witty, and happy personality is the greatest contributor to her success as a teacher.

## The CIT Award for Excellence in Teaching

Cheryl L. Aasheim



Cheryl Aasheim's student evaluations reflect student's perception of her as an excellent instructor across all the dimensions surveyed. Since joining the School of Information Technology in 2002, Dr. Aasheim has been actively involved in both the development of new curriculum and program development. Specifically, she was personally responsible for the development of the specialized area of information management in the IT program. She continues to play a leadership role in the ongoing development of this area as technology changes. In addition to her teaching and development of curriculum, Dr. Aasheim co-authored and presented a paper, "Establishing an Assessment Process for a Computing Program" that won "Best Paper of the Conference" at the 2006 Information Systems Education Conference.

## The CIT Award for Distinguished Service

Hyo-Joo Han



Hyo-Joo Han's philosophy is service offers a "meaningful, fun, and exciting" opportunity to make a difference. Her service at Georgia Southern includes serving as a member of the University Faculty Research and the University Student Conduct Board Committees. Outside of Georgia Southern, Dr. Han has served as a program chair for AHLIST, as a founder and vice president of the Atlanta Chapter of Korean Women in Science and Engineering, as manager of a website for the IT committee of Korean Scientists and Engineers Association, as member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies*, and as the guest editor for the *International Journal of Emerging Technology in Learning*.

## Martin NeSmith Faculty Award for Distinguished Service

Bob Hoell



Since coming to Georgia Southern in 2000, Bob Hoell has been a sought-after instructor. His students remark that he is always well prepared, knowledgeable of the related subject matter, witty and humorous in his presentations, fair and objective, and shows genuine interest in his students' success in the classroom and their careers. In addition to his service provided for students, Dr. Hoell has maintained a heavy load of external service to organizations within his management profession as well as service to COBA. Most recently he has chaired COBA's Governance Committee.

## CIT Award for Outstanding Research

Aimao Zhang



Joining Georgia Southern University in 2001, Aimao Zhang was the first new faculty member hired for the College of Information Technology. Since that time, she has distinguished herself in the areas of teaching, service, and research. Over the last year, Dr. Zhang has added three journal articles to her extensive list of publications. One was published in a peer-reviewed journal, one was accepted for publication, and another is currently under review.

## T. J. Morris, Jr., Faculty Award for Excellence in Research

Rod Thomas



The Morris Research Award has been awarded to Rod Thomas because of his excellent record of research and publication. Dr. Thomas's ability to produce quality research is verified by the quality of the journals

publishing his work. In addition to publishing eight journal articles in the past two years, he serves on the editorial review or advisory boards for five of the most respected journals in his field.

## The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service in the MBA

Ednilson Bernardes



Ed Bernardes has served on the COBA and University Graduate committees and will be chairing COBA's GPCP next year. He frequently teaches MGMT 7430 management of operations for competitive advantage in Statesboro and Savannah. MBA students find his classes to be highly relevant. They especially appreciate that students and instructor engage in interesting discussions. Dr. Bernardes brings his high-quality supply chain management knowledge from in-depth research into graduate course that he teaches.

## The Bank of America Faculty Award

Gregory Brock



Dr. Greg Brock received the Bank of America Faculty Development Award for his research. Specifically, his article on the use of economics education literature to self-evaluate his own teaching. The highest level of teaching evaluation is to assess and publish the outcomes of a teaching evaluation in a double-blind, peer-reviewed journal. In his article, "Student Attitudes and Knowledge Change in an Introductory College Economics Class," Dr. Brock analyzed not only knowledge gained but attitudinal change in before/after assessment of all his calendar 2009 classes.

## The Charles R. Gibbs Faculty Award

Michael Thomas



# of Excellence

Faculty awards are based upon a variety of characteristics including research activities, teaching excellence, distinguished service, and development potential.

As the Charles R. Gibbs Faculty Award winner, Mike Thomas is an excellent performer in all aspects of his field. As a teacher, Dr. Thomas is known for being demanding of his students, but also caring and helpful. With respect to scholarly performance, he is strong in research and writing and publishes consistently. In respect to his service, Dr. Thomas has continued to add responsibilities each year he has been with Georgia Southern.

## The M. Albert Burke Faculty Award



### John Hatem

John Hatem has been on faculty at Georgia Southern since 1990. He teaches BBA and MBA students and is highly rated and liked by students. So much so that it is not uncommon for students to take a course with him more than once. He consistently serves Finance & Quantitative Analysis and COBA in various capacities and he is two-time winner of Best Paper Award for the Academy of Financial Services. Dr. Hatem also mentored a team of students for the Chartered Financial Analysts competition this year.

## J. Daniel Speight Banking Excellence Award

Edward H. Sibbald



Edward Sibbald's career in commercial banking and corporate finance spanned more than 35 years. He joined the faculty of Georgia Southern University in 2006. His areas of expertise include retail banking management, finance, lending, credit/financial analysis, marketing, strategic planning, and performance improvement for community banks. He teaches classes in bank management, bank lending, bank decision-making and real estate finance.

## Olivia Suggs Flanagan Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching or Service

Charles Harter



The first recipient of the Olivia Suggs Flanagan Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching or Service award, Charles Harter, is one of the best professors in the areas of teaching, research, and service. As a member of the accounting faculty, Dr. Harter is a dedicated and respected teacher, a consistent researcher and heavily involved in service to the college, service to the school, and service to the accounting profession.

## The Brown & Williamson Faculty Award

Karen Hamilton



Since joining Georgia Southern in 2006, Dr. Karen Hamilton has taught a number of graduate and undergraduate finance courses. She has consistently been regarded by the students as an excellent teacher. Dr. Hamilton has also been an active researcher, presenting her research at various conferences and publishing peer-reviewed papers in the areas of retirement planning and economic development among others. In addition to her excellence in teaching and research, Dr. Hamilton serves in support and leadership roles on numerous COBA and departmental committees and is highly regarded by her fellow faculty members.

## The Sonny Butler CIT Award of Excellence

Christopher A. Kadlec



Dr. Chris Kadlec is a student-centered professor who creates activities for students that most in academia would consider non-traditional. For example, he created and continues to lead an event called TekLan, an event where students transform two open networking labs twice a semester into gaming labs. Dr. Kadlec is also the faculty advisor for the student chapter of the Association of IT Professionals (AITP), is actively involved in Georgia Southern's Techxpo, and was an active leader in an event called Hackathon, which is part of "Geekend 2011." At Hackathon, he organized and directed students in providing IT support for an event in which groups of software developers compete to build a new product in 24 hours. In addition to his service to students, Dr. Kadlec serves the faculty as a member of the University's Graduate Curriculum Committee, CIT

Technology and Instructional Resource Committee, departmental faculty and staff search committees, and as a volunteer in "Operation Move-in."

## Ron and Barbara Shiffler Instructor Award

Gloria Stuart



As a member of the accounting faculty, Gloria Stuart has proven herself an excellent instructor by earning the respect of both her students and her peers. Her students remark that she cares about their success in the classroom and is extremely helpful. Her peers comment that Ms. Stuart is highly competent.

## Eagle Executive Society Faculty Award

Linda Mullen



The winner of the Eagle Executive Society Faculty Award, Dr. Linda Mullen, is one of the most highly respected members of COBA. As one of our best classroom teachers, she also is a consistent researcher and author and has maintained a heavy service load while at Georgia Southern. While some students say her personality is hilarious, others may say it is unusual; however, all her students say that they love her class.

## The CIT Staff Award for Excellence

Linda Carwell



As the "heart, soul, and brains of CIT," Linda Carwell has proven herself an indispensable member of its staff. This fact is apparent by the countless phone messages and emails that are waiting for her when she is out of the office. While working for a number of bosses, Linda not only performs excellent at her job, she is also always willing and able to assist others with theirs too. Members of the CIT staff know that not only will Mrs. Carwell assist them in getting their task completed; she will make sure that it is done right the first time. Therefore, it is fitting that such a coveted member of

the CIT staff receives the Staff Award of Excellence for CIT

## The Tomlinson & Bond Families Staff Award for Excellence



Jeanette Hadden

As a member of the management, marketing, and logistics staff, Jeanette Hadden has proven herself to be a vital member of the department. Her dedication and work ethic to assist MM&L faculty and students has proven instrumental to their success. In addition to her dedication and work ethic, Ms. Hadden has proven her intelligence countless times when solving difficult problems within the department. Therefore, it is appropriate that such a vital team member of both the MM&L department and COBA receives the Tomlinson & Bond Families Staff Award for Excellence. ♦

## 2012 Retirements



Pictured with University Provost Ted Moore (c) at the Builders of the University Wall Retirement Ceremony are COBA retirees Jim Whitworth (l), associate professor of information systems emeritus and Linda Munilla (r), professor of marketing emerita. Not pictured, but also retiring this year, is Lisa Williams, External Relations administrative specialist. In attendance are Marti (MBA, 1996) and Leo Parrish (professor of management emeritus).





# Thank You to

The Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology are grateful to alumni and friends, who, through their contributions, have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in education. Contributors who earmarked COBA, CIT, one of our programs, or scholarship funds

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Leonard Blount\*  
William H. Bolen\*  
William J. Bostwick\*  
Edward S. Bowles\*  
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Briggs & Stratton Corporation  
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Brodie International, Tom Clark  
Avia Brown  
Shayna Brown  
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.\*  
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Budget Home Rentals,  
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M. Albert Burke  
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Don E. Callaway\*  
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James L. Campbell\*  
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Johnny L. Carter\*  
Tom Case\*  
CH2M Hill-Tabitha Holder  
Kate A. Channell\*  
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Alane M. Claxton  
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Doug Collins III\*  
Lisa Conti-Bacon\*  
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Toni Cook  
Core Credit Union  
Counts Communications, Mark Counts  
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Crider Inc., W. A. Crider  
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Allen Current\*  
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Billy Hickman\* and Edwin Hill  
Dawnielle Davis  
Elliott Davis LLC, Richard E. Waycaster  
Elynor Davis  
James E. Davis, Jr.\*  
Frances S. Deal\*

Fast and Easy I  
Fastnal Company  
Shannon Rene Ferguson  
Robert W. Fernekas\*  
Donna K. Fisher\*  
Olivia S. Flanagan\*  
Leslie B. Fletcher  
Ronald Focht  
Sara Fountain\*  
Peter L. Fraley\*  
Frazier's Flowers & Gifts  
Doris S. Fries  
Erin Gianella  
Alexander Gambill  
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Georgia Ports Authority, Curtis J. Foltz  
Georgia Power Foundation Inc.,  
Lynda B. Williamson\*  
Godfrey A. Gibbison

William T. Herring\*  
Nancy Herring\*  
Susan S. Herring\*  
Brianna Heslin  
Senator Jack Hill\*  
Jeremy R. Hinton\*  
IHS Pharmacy & Gifts, Dean Stone  
Robert S. Hixon\*  
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Holland, Henry, & Bromley LLP,  
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The Home Depot PAC  
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Donald D. Howard\*  
Amy Howe  
Karen Davis Hudspeth\*  
Angelia Huggins\*  
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Yinghua Jin  
Gary Johnson  
Lindsey D. Johnson, Jr.\*  
Michael K. Johnson\*  
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Jones & Boyd Insurance Agency,  
Edwin O. Boyd  
Jones, Jones, Davis & Associates CPA  
PC, Thomas W. Jones  
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JWH Service Partners Inc.,  
Jackie W. Hartley  
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Robert A. Leven\*  
Buddy Lichty\*  
Mary E. Ligon  
Jun Liu  
Jill M. Lockwood\*  
Loco's Deli & Pub  
Lord Eye Center, Lurie Lord\*  
Misty Loughry\*  
Shecora C. Lovett  
Sanford Loyd\*  
Loxscreen  
Carolyn Luckadoo\*  
David M. Luckie\*  
Chandan Maitrani\*  
Lori Mallard\*  
Manack Signature Properties,  
Todd Manack\*  
Karl B. Mandrodt\*  
Mauldin & Jenkins CPA LLC,  
D. Greg Morgan  
William W. McCartney  
Kari McDermott  
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Robert McGregor\*  
Caitlin McIntosh  
Britton McKay\*  
McLain, Calhoun, McCullough, Clark &  
Co. PC, Michael R. Calhoun\*  
William S. Mclean II\*

## Margot M. Dawkins

**Margot Morris Dawkins** (ECON, different manufacturers, including 1976) is president of the Atlanta Advertising Novelty Company (AANC). Founded in 1918 by Walter Richard, the company was purchased by Marc Morris, Margot's father in 1961.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, Margot discovered her love for marketing by interning in Georgia Southern's vice president of development's office. After her internship, she began working at AANC and was promoted to president in 1990. In 1997, Margot purchased the company from her father.

Today, the promotional products distributor represents approximately 3,000



Margot Dawkins

Margot has remained engaged with her alma mater. She served as president of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association in the early 1980's and is currently active in the Atlanta Alumni group. An inaugural member of the COBA Advisory Board, Margot has been a trustee of the Georgia Southern Foundation since 1992. ♦

Julian I. Deal\*  
Richard N. Deal, P.C.  
J. Nicholas DeBonis  
Charles Dedrickson, II\*  
Deemer, Dana & Froehle, LLP  
Deloach Exterminating, John Deloach  
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# Our Many Supporters

during 2011 are listed below. Care has been taken in the preparation of this list to assure complete and accurate recording; however, if omissions or errors have occurred, we express our sincere regret and request that you bring such errors to our attention.

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Michael Wiggins  
Linda S. Wilke\*  
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Lisa S. Williams  
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Debopam Acharya  
Jacob Adams  
Brenda T. Aytes  
BMW Mfg. Co. LLC  
Rachel Beckworth  
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\*Eagle Executive Society Members

# Dean's Citations for Student Engagement

The Dean's Citations spotlight faculty who engage students in exceptional activities, events, and projects beyond what is expected in a class.



## Wei Wu Service

Wei Wu has made quite an impact during his first year as a tenure-track construction management faculty member. His willingness to coach student competition teams, work as chair of the scholarship committee, and help in coordinating construction management faculty input on governance, are just a few of his numerous contributions this year. He is a person whom students, faculty, and industry representatives cite as a wonderful and talented addition to the department. We are happy he has joined our team!

## Adrian Gardiner Student Engagement

Adrian Gardiner spends countless hours working with students outside of class, from freshmen to Ph.D and all levels between. He is personally involved in the placement of students. Adrian's unceasing attention to end-to-end, value-added, student



engagement makes him a worthy recipient of a Dean's Citation for Student Engagement.



## Lindsay Larson Teaching

In the short time Lindsay Larson has been at Georgia Southern, she has clearly demonstrated excellence in teaching. Her students praise her knowledge and presentation style, and say she is always able to engage them in the material—even when it is boring. She is a very worthy recipient for the Dean's Citation for Excellence in Teaching.

## Alan Mackelprang Research

Alan Mackelprang recently joined us from South Carolina, but has already proven to be an excellent researcher with two publications in the top empirical journal in operations and supply chain management and another paper in a well-respected international journal of operations



and supply chain management. This makes him a worthy recipient for the Dean's Citation for Excellence in Research.



## Timur Mirzoev Education Outreach

Timur Mirzoev, for his efforts in encouraging fellow faculty to embrace VMware virtualization curriculum, resulting in more marketable students with greater skill and knowledge, is a worthy recipient for the Dean's Citation in Education Outreach.

## Ardian Greca Teaching

Ardian Greca served in numerous levels of many committees at Georgia Southern in the past eleven years. His devotion and dedication in serving the department, the college, and the university is exemplary, making him a worthy recipient for the Dean's Citation for Service.



## Abbie Gail Parham Student Engagement

Abbie Gail Parham is the chair of the School of Accountancy's Student Retention Graduation and Instructional Resource Committee and is in charge of a number of student-centered events during the year. She works very hard to promote the accounting program and careers in accounting, making Abbie Gail a very deserving recipient of the Dean's Citation for Student Engagement.



## Yaseen Alhaj-Yaseen Teaching

Yaseen Alhaj-Yaseen consistently scores almost perfect scores on student rating of teaching effectiveness. Students describe him as friendly, helpful, patient, available, organized, positive, and prepared. They often comment that while taking his class they can finally listen to the news and understand what is happening locally and internationally. For these reasons he deserves the Dean's Citation for Excellence in Teaching. ♦



## Honors Day

The COBA and CIT awards presented at Honors Day and the names of the recipients are listed below.

### Accountancy

Paul LaGrone Scholarship:  
**Courtney E. Martin**  
**Delaney N. Tuggle**

The Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of CPAs Academic Excellence Award: **Allison E. Jansen**

### Computer Science

Computer Science Student of the Year Award: **Zachary Reynolds**

### Economic Development

Emerging Scholar in Economics Award:  
**Cameron H. Randall**

SED Award for Academic Distinction:  
**Landon J. Latham**

Award for Excellence in Achievement:  
Economics of the Free Market:  
**Edio J. Del Castanhel Filho**

SED Opportunity Scholarship:  
**Samantha Smith**

Omicron Delta Epsilon:

**Jeffery Campbell**  
**Kevin Alexander Rodriguez Castillo**  
**Raymond Alexander Hamilton**  
**Mathieu Lacasse**

**Landon J. Latham**  
**Christian Perry**

**Ryan Platt**  
**Cameron H. Randall**  
**Michael Whitehair**  
**Nicholas Whitehead**

### Finance & Quantitative Analysis

Professional Insurance Agents:  
**Jeff Hupman**

Atlanta Charter Property Casualty Underwriters: **Steven Mayfield**

Paul Kidd: **Cia King**

### Information Systems

Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate: **Jesse T. Floyd**

Albert J. Roesel Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate:  
**Karl W. Miller**

Harris Computer Systems Award:  
**Daniel L. Fletcher**

Buddy Lichty Information Systems Award, Outstanding IS Graduate:  
**Ashley L. Harrell**

Richard A. Mordecai Award,  
Outstanding IS Graduate:  
**John A. Thompson**

Susan Rebstock Williams Business Technology Scholarship:  
**Courtney Rogers**

Dr. Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr. Scholarship:  
**Melvin D. Zuber**

Robert John Consulting SAP University Alliances TERP10 Scholarship:  
**Markesha Whittlesey**

SAP@GSU TERP10 Scholarship:  
**Sean T. Handley**

Matthew Janofsky Scholarship:  
**Shanna M. Lawson**

Information Systems Junior Award:  
**Melvin D. Zuber**

Information Systems Sophomore Award:  
**Carlyle D. Hall**

Alpha Iota Mu:  
**Ashley L. Harrell**  
**Rahim N. Sarfani**  
**James B. Stone**  
**John A. Thompson**  
**Christopher J. Wiles**

### Information Technology

Information Technology Award for Excellence, Outstanding IT Student:  
**Kadisa T. Johnson**

Information Technology Award for Excellence, Academic Achievement Award: **Travis G. Williams**

Information Technology Excellence in Service Award:

**Patrick R. Howard**  
**Adrienne K. Smiley**  
**Christopher Sterling**  
**Kenneth L. Vann**

### Management, Marketing, & Logistics

Logistics Student of the Year:  
**Latifah N. Harris**

Top Management Student Award:  
**Lindsey N. Strickland**

Top Marketing Student Award:  
**Vandance L. Cunningham**  
**Chian A. Miller**

Top Sales Student Award:  
**Brittanie D. Brandt**

Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: **Jazim M. Tribble**

## Homecoming 2012

Saturday, November 3

Georgia Southern vs. App State

## COBA Golf Tournament

Friday, May 17, 2013

Forest Heights Country Club

# ALUMNIVILLE

## Accounting

Roland Berry (1972), Kathleen, has been promoted to chief of Air Force Reserve Operations and Maintenance Budget, managing a \$3.4 billion budget for the Air Force Reserve at Robins AFB. His son, Ted, Jr., is a COBA logistics graduate. Email: roland.berry@us.af.mil.

Charles "Bo" Fennell (1992), Statesboro, is now the general manager for Walker Pharmacy and Home Medical. Bo completed Leadership Georgia in 2011. While at Southern, he was a member of the golf team for four years. Bo is married to Keely NeSmith, a 1991, Georgia Southern management graduate. Email: bo@walker-rx.com.

R. Brent Hinely (1992), CPA, formerly in Brunswick and with Georgia Power, is now retired and living on Hilton Head Island, SC. He is married to Donna McAfee. Email: rbhinely@hargray.com.

Mark A. Smith (1997), formerly in Sugar Hill, is now in Atlanta, where he is vice president-senior research analyst for Stableriver Capital Management. His wife is Rebecca. Email: mark.a.smith@stableriver.com.

Chris P. Lewis (2005), Richmond Hill, is a senior financial analyst with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Savannah. He is married to Catherine Reed. Email: c.lewis32@gmail.com.

Corey C. Fletcher (2008), Brooklet, is the assistant office manager for Southeastern Auto Auction, Savannah. He is married to Jessica Leigh Sherrod, a 2010 Georgia Southern education graduate. Email: corey@southeasternaa.net.

Ashley N. Fransoso (2009; MAcc, 2009), Atlanta, is the financial reporting and assurance senior for Bennett Thrasher. She is married to Trip Addison, a 2009 Georgia Southern MBA. Email: ashleyfransoso@gmail.com.

Michael Eric Jolley (2009), CPA, Sandy Springs, a staff accountant with Teavona Corp., began working with the company as it was going public with its IPO. He married Elise Gayle Held, a 2009 Georgia Southern COE graduate with a 2010 MED in early childhood education in Hawaii last July. Email: mjolley@teavona.com.

Erik J. Kramschuster (2009; MAcc 2010), Lawrenceville, is an accountant with Rollins & Associates, Atlanta. He passed all four parts of the CPA exam in December 2010 and is completing a first year of employment. Email: ekramschuster@rollinsfinancial.com.

Trey E. Burgamy (2010), formerly in Milledgeville, is now in Atlanta, where he is a tax associate with Pricewaterhouse

Coopers. Email: trey.e.burgamy@us.pwc.com.

Sara Callan Lord (2009; MAcc 2010), Dexter, is a staff accountant and auditor with McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks, CPAs, Macon. Email: clord@mmmcpc.com.

Adam W. McCord (2009), formerly in Midville, is now in Smiths Station, AL, where he is the accounting manager for Griggs, Inc., Phenix City, AL. He oversees the accounting departments for three corporations and a partnership in oil and gas distribution. Email: awmccord@gmail.com.

Holly Smith (2009), Stone Mountain, is a staff accountant/CPA with Brooks McGinnis & Company, Atlanta. She is married to Robert Eidson, Jr., a 2004 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate. Email: heidson@brooksmcginnis.com.

Lauren E. LaChance (2010), Grovetown, is a staff accountant for Cherry Bekaert & Holland, CPAs, Augusta. She is married to Bobby Aaron Bethune. Email: lbethune@cbh.com.

## Economics

Paul F. Roessel (1979), president of The H. A. Sack Co., Statesboro, has been named to the board of the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC). His wife is Dee. Email: paulr@hasack.com.

Kyle K. Byrd (2007), formerly in Lilburn, is now in Buford, where he is the regional financial analyst for Sherwin-Williams, Tucker. He is also a CBA from the National Association of Credit Managers. Email: kyle.byrd@sherwin.com.

Alex M. Hopkins (2010), Jesup, is now the project development manager for The Conner Law Group, Savannah.

Alexander MacDonald (2010), formerly in Springfield, is now in Warner Robins, where he is a program manager in the U.S. Air Force.

## Finance

Jerry W. Hollis (1983), Blackshear, was unopposed for his third term on the Blackshear City Council. His wife is Kathy. Email: jerryhollis@gmail.com.

Robert Drew Hulsey (1984), formerly in Macon, is now in Savannah, where he is the senior vice president commercial bank lender for The Colony Bank.

Phillip A. Williams (1984), formerly in Vidalia, is now president of The Claxton Bank. His wife is Angela.

Darron M. Burnette (1988), Statesboro, has been named president and CEO for Sea Island Bank, which he joined in 2002. In 2010, he received the Synovus William B. Turner Humanitarian Award for outstanding service to others. Darron and

his wife, Kimberly, have two daughters, Courtney and Caroline. Email: burnette4@bulloch.net.



Kelly M. Kahley (1990), Brooklet, is now a Darron Burnette mortgage loan originator with The Coastal Bank. Her husband is Karl.

Nick J. Dereszynski (1993), formerly in Fayetteville, NY, is now in Fall City, WA, where he is regional vice president for Brown & Brown, Inc., an insurance company. Nick is married to Tracie Westray and was on the football team. Email: nndereszynski@bbins.com.

Jason P. Owen (1995), Buford, is CFO of Gentiva Health Services, Atlanta. His wife is Debra. Email: jpowers10@gmail.com.

Robert W. Hadley (1996), Old Greenwich, CT, is vice president of energy for Jefferies, New York. After working on the floor of the Nymex for ten years, he has been moved upstairs to trade crude, heating oil, gas, etc. Robert was on the football team. He is married to Julie Anne Cotter. Email: rwhadley3@yahoo.com.

R. Jeremy Ragan (1997), Statesboro, vice president of Queensborough National Bank, has been named as one of the "20 under 40" by the Statesboro Herald. Email: ronaldjragan@msn.co.

Charles B. Altman, III (1998), Statesboro, is now with Vaden Nissan, Statesboro.

Nick Propps (1998), Statesboro, a realtor with Manack Signature Properties, has been selected as one of the "20 under 40" by the Statesboro Herald. His wife is Melanie.

Joel L. Sammons (1999), formerly in Warner Robins, is now in Norcross, where he is an appraiser. He is married to Carrie Crockett. Email: joelsammons@yahoo.com.

Deidre S. Lamar (2000), Savannah, is employed by AirTran Airways, Inc.

Tim Mobley (2002), Carrollton, is the director of retail sales for the Southwire Company. His wife is Brooke. Email: tim\_mobley@southwire.com.

Brian S. Piel (2003), formerly in Peachtree City, is now in Independence, MO, where he is the bank manager for the BMO Harris Bank. He will soon receive an MBA from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Brian's wife is Lauren.

Vanessa Torres (2004), Savannah, is with Gulfstream. Email: van1002@me.com.

Meghann Elizabeth Powell Law (2006), Statesboro, is in business sales CSR with Northland Communications. She is married to Brian E. Law. Email: megaxa2@gmail.com.

J. Albert Williams (2007), Darien, is the assistant compliance officer for Southeastern Bank. Email: jawstar@hotmail.com.

Leah Marie Lewis (2008; MBA, 2009), Jesup, who earned her Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University's College of Law, Atlanta in 2011, married Kyle Randall Jones, a 2009 Georgia Southern construction management graduate, on March 24, 2012. Leah is practicing law with Samantha F. Jacobs, PC, Jesup. Email: leahlewis@hotmail.com.

Sasha Marks (2009), formerly in Marietta, is now in Atlanta, where she is a junior staff accountant with The Atlanta Bread Company, Smyrna. Email: smarks2@ymail.com.

W. H. "Bilby" Warren (2009), Savannah, is the GM/CFO of Fleet Feet Sports on Waters Ave., Savannah. He is married to Jennifer Harris, a 2008 Georgia Southern management graduate.

Cory W. Zahner (2009; MBA 2010), Atlanta, is now an accountant with SouthStar Energy Services and 70 lbs. lighter than two years ago! Email: czahner2@gmail.com.

Brad J. Hobbs (2010), Norcross, is a new product salesperson for Sage Software, Lawrenceville. Email: bhobbs555@gmail.com.

Blake Thompson (2010), formerly in Euharlee, is now in Mt. Pleasant, SC, where he is development assistant for the Cougar Club, the fund-raising arm of the College of Charleston's Athletic Department. He recently received his MA in sport management from the University of Tennessee,



Terry Watson (FIN, 1997) began his career in the building industry with a Fortune 500 company. After five years, he decided to become an NFL sports agent and, during his third year at Cumberland School of Law (Samford, JD, 2006), he became certified with the National Football League Players' Association (NFLPA).

Shortly after Terry founded his company, Watson Sports Agency, he had the fortune of signing his first, and what would later become his most successful, client **Cortland Finnegan** from Samford.

Since 2005, Terry has represented more than fifteen NFL players as his company has ascended to new heights. In March 2012, Terry negotiated a five-year, \$51 million contract on Courtland's behalf with the St. Louis Rams, which, at \$27 million, provides the largest guarantee for a defensive back in NFL history.

Terry and his wife Anna (Kinesiology, 1997) reside in Marietta and have three children, Jacob (4), Merritt (3) and Whittaker (3 months).

## ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

ACC 1972 - FIN 2010



# ALUMNIVILLE

Knoxville. Blake was on Georgia Southern's basketball team.

Christopher J. Newland (2011), Statesboro, is now the compliance manager with the Brand Ferland Advisors, Savannah.

## General Business

C. Ray Josey (1967), Valdosta, retired in 1996 from DFCS but returned to active duty in 1998 to be the transition coordinator for Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond. An expected three month job turned into ten years including a stint as deputy commissioner. Ray fully retired in 2008. His wife, Janeen, is a 1967 business education graduate. Email: crjosey@mchsi.com.

Duane C. Arnold (1988), formerly in Costa Rica, is now in Belize, where he is a project manager for Fyfee's International Fruit Company's banana operations. He is married to Helen Smart. Email: dcarnd11@hotmail.com.

Denny M. Tucker (1996), Cumming, is now a senior systems integ. spec. for Agilysys, Alpharetta. He is married to Ashley Parrish. email: dtucker09@gmail.com.

## Information Systems

Janice W. Woods (1982), Savannah, after many years with First Chatham Bank, is now the senior vice president-retail sales manager for First Citizens Bank. She is married to Williams Woods.

James S. "Jim" Hampton (1990), formerly in Montana, is now in Rutherford, NC, where he is the IS operations manager for the Rutherford Regional Health Systems. His wife is Cheryl. Jim is a certified professional in health information systems and working on a master of health care administration. Email: james\_steelman\_hampton@yahoo.com.

Stephen R. Smesny (2003), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Vidalia, where he is director of IS for Meadows Regional Medical Center. He is married to Christy Revels, a 2003 Georgia Southern psychology and a 2012 MED graduate. Email: smesay@meadowsregional.org.

Archibald M. King, Jr. (2010; LOG, 2010), formerly in Lilburn, is now in Bay Shore, NY, where he is an SAP specialist with Festo Hauppauge, NY. Arch was in China for 2 1/2 weeks to implement a new warehouse system. His wife, Jordan, is a 2010 Georgia Southern political science graduate. Email: archking@gmail.com.

## Logistics

Amy Alexandria Esther (1996), formerly in Nashville, TN, is now in Dawsonville, where she is the marketing manager for Carestream Health, Atlanta. She is married to Jeremy Gibson, and they have a daughter, Drew Margaret, born June 17, 2011. Email: alexgibson913@yahoo.com.

James M. Eunice (2003), formerly in Folkston, is now in Belton, SC, where he is

the fleet manager for Walgreens, Williams-ton, SC. He is married to Toni Chapman. Email: james.eunice@walgreens.com.

Krzysztof Janiszewski (2011) is now working with CSX Corporation, training in Chicago. Eagle basketball fans remember Kris—a center on the basketball team.

Travis Torrence (2011), Smyrna, is an intermodal operations specialist for Schneider National, Fairburn. Email: travis\_torrence7@gmail.com.

Samuel Matt Wasson (2011), formerly in the 'Boro, is now in Garden City, where he is a dispatcher with Miller Transporters. Email: swasson1@georgiasouthern.edu.

## Management

Tommy Bond (1973; MBA, 1975), Atlanta, is the owner of Southeast Property Advisors and chair of the Georgia Southern Foundation Board. His wife is Kaye, and they have a daughter, McKinsey. Tommy was an outstanding member of the basketball team. Email: tpbond@mindspring.com.



Lurue Lord, (1978) has been appointed to the Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians by Gov. Nathan Deal. She is pictured with Gov. Deal (right) and husband, Dr. Whit Lord (left). Lurue and Whit own and operate six Lord Eye Centers in southeast Georgia. Dr. Lord has served as a member of the Georgia Board of Optometry since 1992.

Troy S. Hetes (1997), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Superior, CO, where he is the owner of Hetes Design. He is married to Holly Nicole Sheppard, a 1998 Georgia Southern merchandising major. Email: troyhets@hotmail.com.

Joe Harbough (2000; MBA, 2004), formerly in Hudson, FL, is now in Lithonia, where he is the operations coordinator for Aggreko, LLC. He is married to Jennifer DiPietro. Email: jharbough@yahoo.com.

Jaclyn Cason (2001), Pembroke, general manager for Frontier Communications, Statesboro, has been selected for the *Statesboro Herald's* "20 under 40." She is married to Jody Cason.

Brent R. Jackson (2001), Jacksonville, FL, is now in sales and the excavation manager for Roto-Rooter Plumbing. Email: brent\_jackson5@yahoo.com.

Chris M. Turner (2001), Brandon, MS, is the managing partner of the Outback Steakhouse, I-55N, Jackson, MS. Email: NVRLUZ@yahoo.com.

Charles "Clay" Chandler, Jr. (2003), Statesboro, owner of Chandler Roofing and Specialty Metals, Inc., recently married Maryn Clements, a Georgia Southern biology graduate. Email: chandlerclay@hotmail.com.

Jeff Grant (2003), Statesboro, an HR Department employee for the City of Statesboro, has been selected as one of the "20 under 40" by the *Statesboro Herald*.

Dwana "Wanda" Hughes (2003), Statesboro, is a manager for WalMart, Northside Drive. She is also the founder and CEO of Fireball Ministries, an evangelist ministry. Email: wandah21@hotmail.com.

Ariel S. Terry (2004), Atlanta, is a 1st VP, program/project mgr wealth & investment mgr with SunTrust Bank. She is married to Hasani McHoney. Email: arielmchoney@gmail.com.

Myra Lynn Lyons Chasteen (2006), Brunswick, is the ministries liaison for the New Life Sanctuary. She is married to Lamar Chasteen. Email: mlynn\_chasteen@comcast.net.

Jeremy Myers (2007; MBA 2009), formerly in Pembroke, is now in St. Louis, MO, where he is a computer analyst with Wells Fargo. Email: jmyers86@gmail.com.

Daniel Lee Johnson (2008; MBA 2010), Statesboro, the logistics supervisor for Newell Recycling of Savannah, married Miranda Danielle Blake, a 2008 Georgia Southern hotel and restaurant management graduate, on March 24, 2012.

Crystal M. McCorkle (2008; MBA 2010), Claxton, an independent Mary Kay sales director, married Leroy "Will" Clarke, Register, on April 14, 2012.

Krista Michelle Waagner (2008), Winterville, NC, is married to James C. Marsh.

Jennifer Harris Warren (2008), Savannah, is the office assistant at The Lady and Sons. She is married to William H. Warren, III, a 2009 Georgia Southern finance graduate. Email: jenni7007@aol.com.

Kyle R. Shaver (2010), Thomasville, is now a benefits specialist with Flowers Foods, Inc. He is married to Katherine R. Shaver, a UGA alumna. Email: kshaver11@gmail.com.

Justin Patrick (2011), is an operations manager with Sizemore, Inc., a diversified contract services company in the 'Boro.

## Marketing



Patrick G. Blanchard (right) (1966), vice chair of the Board, First Bank of Georgia, Augusta, was recently recognized by Derek Williams (left), past chair, Community Bankers of Georgia, for fifty years of service to community banking. Carolyn Brown, president & CEO of the Community Bankers Association, presented Blanchard with a

Resolution commemorating his commitment and service.

Dr. Robyn Hans (1976; MED, 1979), Clermont, has a private psychology practice in Gainesville. She is married to Bruce Piehler. Email: drobynans@gmail.com.

Keith Dukes Willis (1985), Phenix City, AL, is the owner of Subway of Ft. Mitchell, AL. He is married to Sherwanda Crowell. Email: keithdukeswillis@yahoo.com.

Brandee B. Johnson (1990), Saint Simons Island, is the owner of the Bad Hair Day Salon. Email: brandeebeth@netscape.net.

Heather C. Radtke (1992), Savannah, vice president of Speros, has been accepted as a member of the Savannah Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction. She was on the women's volleyball team. Email: hradtke@speros.com.

Jeffrey W. McPhail (1994), Millen, a cotton specialist with StapleCotton, Statesboro, recently married Ginny Starling, a 1996 and 2000 Georgia Southern business graduate.

Kimberly Kimball Lanier (1995; MBA 1998), Savannah, is the VP/property manager for Lanier Realty, a company owned by Kimberly and her husband, Jody. She and Jody have four children, Ashley (11), Hunter (9), Tanner (6), and Emily (4). Email: kimlanier@lanierrealty.com.

Ginny H. Starling (1996; MBA, 2000), Statesboro, a realtor with Coldwell Banker/Tanner Realty, recently married Jeffrey W. McPhail, a 1994 Georgia Southern marketing grad.

Jamie L. DeLoach (2003; WebMBA, 2010), Rincon, is now a branch manager for The Coastal Bank in Rincon. He is married to Jenni Echols, a Georgia Southern alumna. Jamie is also an ambassador for the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce. Email: deloach8@hotmail.com.

Allison B. Hagan (2004), Athens, is a homemaker. She is married to Jason McCormick. Email: alisonmccormick@aol.com.

Monique S. Smith (2004), formerly in Union City, is now in Forest Park, where she is with the Clayton County School System. Email: moniques1980@yahoo.com.

Phillip W. Whitley (2004), Naylor, is the finance manager for World Finance. He is married to his college sweetheart, Nicole Cross, a 2004 Georgia Southern psychology graduate, and they have a daughter, Braylin (2). Email: pwwhitley@hotmail.com.

W. Kent Warner (2007), Chamblee, is now the market manager of E-commerce for Ace Industries, Norcross. He was formerly an inside sales rep. Kent is married to Jessica Brummett. email: warner\_kent@yahoo.com.

## ALUMNIVILLE

College of Business Administration

FIN 2011 - MKT 2007

# ALUMNVILLE

Bryan L. Smith (2007), Los Angeles, CA, has a choreography business. He was in LMFAO's video "Sexy and I Know It," which has more than 230 million views on YouTube. Bryan also coaches a number of schools' cheer teams in the LA area. Email: bsmith606@gmail.com.

Shauna M. Swain (2007), Atlanta, is engaged to John C. Riggs, a Georgia Southern COE graduate and city councilman in Statesboro. Email: sswain1@email.georgiasouthern.edu.

Corey J. Grant (2008), formerly in Smyrna, is now in Atlanta, where he is the internal auditor for Genuine Parts Company. Email: cgrant12@alumni.georgiasouthern.edu.

Jessy M. Heim (2009), Atlanta, is a nanny/personal assistant with the Locke Domestic Agency. Email: jheim777@gmail.com.

Sina N. Hilbert (2009), Macon, is a territory manager for Nestlé and listed as a rising star for the company. Email: sina.hilbert@purina.nestle.com.

Lisa Renée Hein (2008), Savannah, is an assistant sales manager at White House Black Market. She is engaged to David Wayne Frizzell, a former Marine Corps sergeant from Savannah. A November 10, 2012, wedding is planned.

Jennifer Michelle Long (2009), formerly in Douglasville, is now in Atlanta, where she is the HR manager (North American operations) for E. C. Harris (U.S.), Inc., an Arcadis Company. She will receive her MBA in May 2012 and has been accepted into Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success. Email: j.michelle.long@gmail.com.

Smith T. Marks (2010), Statesboro, is an account executive with Ricott Business Solutions, Savannah. He is married to Kristen Cox, a 2010 Georgia Southern interior design graduate.

Ally Rakoczy (2010), formerly in Decatur, is now in Atlanta, where she is an account manager with Aerotek and 2011 recipient of the Top Performer Award. Email: allyrakoczy@gmail.com.

Jason Walker (2010), Alpharetta, is a retail sales consultant with AT&T. Email: jwalk39@gmail.com.

Jeremy J. Edmond (2011), Marietta, is now a customer service rep with Verizon, Alpharetta. Email: jegodschosen@gmail.com.

Calvin J. Hersom (2011), Fayetteville, is a professional clothier with Tom James Co., Atlanta, and is in the running for top rookie of the year for Tom James, the largest custom clothier in the world. Email: chersom@tomjames.com.

## MAcc

Robert Eidson, Jr. (2004), is a CPA with Nichols Cauley & Associates, Atlanta. He is married to Holly Smith, a 2009 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Markita L. Jones (2008), CPA, Pooler, is now a tax accountant with Deemer Dana & Frohle, Savannah. Email: mjones@ddfcpas.com.

John Thomas Daley (2010), Lawrenceville, is a staff accountant with Agee Fisher Barnett, LLC, Atlanta. Email: jdoo147@georgiasouthern.edu.

Yichen Zhang (2010), formerly in New York, NY, is now in Jersey City, NJ, where she is an audit associate with KPMG, LLP, New York. She recently received the KPMG Encore Award. Email: yichenzhang@kpmg.com.

William C. Gruver (2011), Savannah, is now an audit team member with Deemer Dana & Froehle, CPAs, Savannah.

## MSAE

Julia Renée Walker (2011), formerly in Roseland, LA, is now in Baton Rouge, LA, where she is an adjunct economics instructor for River Parish Community College, Rasmussen College, and Colorado Community College.

## MBA

Kerry Herndon (1993), Athens, is the regional manager for the Georgia Department of Revenue, Athens. He is married to Angela Wells, a 1993 Georgia Southern graduate. Email: keherndon85@yahoo.com.

Robert D. Owen (1998; Spanish, 1994), Cary, NC, is now the sales director for Serena Software. His wife, Allison, is a Georgia Southern alumna. Email: rowen@serena.com.

Robert L. Menti (2000), formerly in Harker Heights, TX, is now in El Paso, on active duty in the U.S. Army. He is now Col. Menti. Email: robert.menti@us.army.mil.

Christy L. Lawrence (2001), Savannah, is now the development liaison administrator for the City of Savannah. With a civil engineering degree from Duke, she had been with Thomas & Hutton Engineering since 1995. Christy is married to Brian Lawrence. Email: christylaw29@hotmail.com.

Sarah E. Smith (2005), Statesboro, the director of admissions for Georgia Southern, has been selected as one of the "20 under 40" by the *Statesboro Herald*. Email: sarahaustinsmith@yahoo.com.

Trip C. Addison (2009; BS CONS, 2008), Atlanta, economic development and natural resource policy advisor for the Office of the Governor, recently married Ashley N. Fransoso, a 2009 Georgia Southern MAcc graduate.

John C. Fleming (2009), Minden, LA, is a student at the Mississippi College of Law. Email: jcfleming3@gmail.com.

Melissa L. Hale (2010), Savannah, is the program manager for 650 EIS for Gulfstream Aerospace. She is married to Michael Matthew Gesser, a Georgia Southern alumnus. Email: melissa.gesser@gulfstream.com.

Julia G. Hudson (2010), Marietta, is a sales rep with Lilly USA. Email: juliaeg02@aol.com.

Erin Thompson Hughes (2010), Statesboro, is a partner in quality coordination for Memorial Health Partners, Savannah. She is married to Jeremy Hughes. Email: erint.hughes5@yahoo.com.

Loren Waldo (2010), Richmond Hill, is now a senior sales manager-product support sales for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Savannah. Email: loren.waldo@gulfstream.com.

Rey Y. Ortiz (2011), Mililani, HI, has been selected for a commission in the U.S. Air Force as a medical service corps (MSC) officer. Because Georgia Southern's MBA is accredited through AACSB, Rey was offered a direct promotion to the rank of first lieutenant. Only 66 applicants were accepted into the MSC this year from the entire country. Rey is a registered nurse at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI. His wife is Lynn. Email: reyortiz@yahoo.com.

## In Memoriam

David K. Williams (ACC 1985), Statesboro, died February 8, 2012.

William J. Mobley (FIN 1984) died September 9, 2010.

Dennis L. Hudson (MGT 1984), Buford, died January 1, 2011.

James M. Dixon (MGT 2003; MBA 2011), Baxley, died February 19, 2012.

Philip Blair Smith (MKT 1989) died November 4, 2005.

Ritchie Alan Young (MBA 2005) died August 15, 2005.



## Eagle Executive Society and "Blue Card"



- ☐ I would like to become a member of the Eagle Executive Society. Enclosed is my \$50.00 payment.  
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Home Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Business Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Preferred Address for delivery ☐ Home ☐ Office

Please return this form to Lewis Stewart, COBA Alumni Editor,  
P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002 or  
use the QR code, right, to join the Eagle Executive Society.





## In Memoriam — Ardian Greca

Dr. **Ardian Greca**, associate professor of computer science, died at age 43 on April 3, 2012, following a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. One of the brightest stars in the College of Information Technology, Dr. Greca grew up in Albania, earned a bachelor of science in electronic engineering from the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania, and worked for the Directory of Customs, Ministry of Finance, in his home country before leaving Europe to earn a Ph.D. in electrical and information engineering from the Yamagata University, Japan, in 2000. His doctoral work was in network survivability with ATM and optical emphasis. He later received a post-doctoral fellowship at NTT Network Innovation Laboratories, Kanagawa, Japan, to research next generation optical path network design.



Dr. Greca joined the faculty at Georgia Southern in 2001 as the Yamacraw professor, immediately making a significant, positive impact on students. His prolific research output, publishing more than 30 refereed journal articles and conference proceedings, earned him a reviewer position for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers publication board.

Dr. Greca's hobbies were soccer, basketball, and traveling the world. He very much loved his family, who survive him from as far away as Tirana, Albania, and Queens, NY, to as close as Brooklet. In CIT and COBA, he will be remembered for his eternally positive attitude and happy personality, even at the lowest points of his fight with cancer. May the spirit of Dr. Greca be with us, forever. ♦

## The PKF Consulting Visit



*Pictured at the reception are (l-to-r) Alex Kowalczyk, president, Hospitality Management Club; Larry Stalcup, associate professor, hospitality management; Robert Mandelbaum, director information systems, PKF Consulting; Tucker Nelson, president, Accounting Association; and Wade Tillman, vice president, Hospitality Management Club.*

COBA's Hospitality Club and the Accounting Association joined forces in February to bring **Robert Mandelbaum** of PKF Consulting to campus. Pannell, Kerr, and Foster, CPAs, began practice in 1912 and, until 1990, were primarily known as accountants and consultants, principally to the hotel and motel industry. In 1991, the firm became known as PKF Consulting, adding PKF Hospitality Research in 1998, specializing in data collection, analysis, forecasting, and benchmarking the industry. In 2007, PKF was purchased by First Service Corporation, an affiliate of Collier International, becoming the largest hotel-motel industry analyst in the world.

Mr. Mandelbaum, from the Atlanta office of the U.S. consulting division headquartered in San Francisco, CA, was introduced to students with a reception before his presentation, "The State of the U. S. Hospitality Industry." In his remarks, Mr. Mandelbaum presented trends and analysis from the PKF's highly regarded forecasting model Hotel Horizons, which presents information

from fifty major market cities, six major national chains, and six different location types. The report is produced from data provided by Smith Travel Research, Nashville, in collaboration with Moody Analytics' forecasted economic outlook.

The outlook Mr. Mandelbaum shared for 2012 reflects continued recovery in the travel and hospitality industry, which began in 2010, with 5 to 7.5 percent growth expected in the economy and up-scale sectors, respectively, in revenue per available room. The report concludes lodging demand continues to outstrip supply; however, "the turnaround in industry performance has not occurred evenly across all sectors of the lodging industry."

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Mandelbaum, answered questions and offered copies of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of "Trends in the Hotel Industry" to students in attendance. The report, considered the premier hotel-motel industry benchmark around the world, is in its tenth edition. ([www.pkfc.com](http://www.pkfc.com)) ♦

## Center for Excellence in Financial Services

COBA's Center for Excellence in Financial Services had a busy spring. The Center and Georgia Bankers Association co-sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Southeastern Region Community Bank Symposium held in March at Forest Heights Country Club with more than 110 in attendance. Speakers included **Joe Brannen**, president and CEO of the Georgia Bankers Association; **Thomas Dujenski**, Southeastern regional director of the FDIC; **Rob Braswell**, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance; **Allen Stanley**, vice president of community bank supervision of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; **Roger Tutterow**, economist with Mercer University; **Steve Powell**, Steve H. Powell and Co., compliance and loan review consultant; **Jerry Blanchard**, partner with Bryan Cave, LLP, financial institutions lawyers; **Cal Evans**, senior real estate appraiser, Synovus Financial Group; and Dr. **Ted Moore**, Georgia Southern provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Assisting **Ed Sibbald**, director, Center for Excellence in Financial Services, were **Mark Donato**, data programmer and analyst, **Laura Cooper**, graduate assistant, **Ben Woods**, undergraduate intern, and

student volunteers, **Patrick Wiggs**, **Robert Rayburn**, and **Nicholas Prichett**.

The annual *Financial Services Day* brought together COBA students and representatives from the banking, insurance, and investment industries, including **Kelly Herrington**, Morris Bank; **Joe Lanier**, BB&T; **Dana Potts**, First Citizens Bank; **Tracy Whitesides**, Georgia Department of Banking and Finance; **Jack Greene**, Northwestern Mutual; **Mason Heidt**, Mass Mutual; **Madie Martin**, GEICO; **Alex Steele**, Pro-

gressive; **Max Manack**, Merrill Lynch; **Molly Sisson**, Synovus Trust Company; and **Terry Wynn**, Edward Jones.

A joint marketing agreement between the Georgia Bankers Association and Center for Excellence in Financial Services will expand *BANKSTAT*, the subscription-based service for community banks offering regional and peer group comparative financial performance and risk profiles. *BANKSTAT*, which has approximately 30 community bank subscribers in the Southeast, will be offered to community banks and credit unions statewide. ♦



*Joe Brannen*

## Belk Partnership

COBA welcomed Belk, one of the leading retailers and major brands in the southeast, to campus in March. **Dave Penrod**, Belk Southern Division chair, led a delegation, including **Nancy Pierce**, HR director; **Mark Sonenshein**, regional manager; **Mike Lucas**, local store manager; **Deirdre Sutter**, divisional merchandise coordinator; and **Jean Maryanski** and **Amanda Varnadore**, COBA alumnae and assistant HR managers. The

Belk delegation breakfast with several students, met with COBA internship coordinators, and toured campus. Belk will be offering 100 internships for Georgia Southern students this summer in more than 300 Belk stores and divisional offices. ♦



*Dave Penrod*



**Diann Cattani** grew up in a small Idaho town with a large family, received a volleyball scholarship to Brigham Young University, majored in business management and psychology, and, had a successful career in promotion and advertising. She

was a valued, trusted, and integrated employee in a rapidly growing company, and her career path was the epitome of success.

Today, Diann is a financial fraud investigation consultant for A Closer Look, LLC, and the Investigative Accounting Group, Inc., Atlanta. In February, she presented the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Forensic Accounting Lecture, "Why Good People Make Bad Decisions," sponsored by COBA's fraud examination and forensic accounting program.

Cattani acquainted her audience with the fraud triangle, a forensic concept developed upon perceived pressure,

rationalization, and opportunity. A fourth factor, capability, is considered by many forensic researchers to be equally important.

In Diann's view, it was opportunity and capability that pushed the fraud door wide open for her. She explained how she transitioned down the "slippery slope" between business and personal expense.

"The characteristics and skills that make leaders successful—intellect, ego, and confidence, along with coercive and coping skills—also make fraud easy," she said. Diann lost her job, career, and husband and served an 18-month

sentence in a Florida federal prison, a period she described as "scary," and filled with "hopelessness and helplessness. When you go to prison, your family and friends go to prison with you," she pointed out.

Diann concluded Italian dramatist **Conte Vittoria Alfieri** was correct, "often the test of courage is not to die, but to live." She lives and has built a new career on strengths gained from the ordeal. Described by *The Wall Street Journal* as the "face of white collar crime," Diann's career now focuses on prevention, deterrence, and investigation of financial fraud in white collar crime. ♦

## "Why Good People Make Bad Decisions"